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Hispanic Telecommunications Network

Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St., S. W. Room TW-204B  
Washington, D.C. 20554

May 30, 2003

Re: Informal Comments, MB Dkt. No. 02-277; MM Dkt. No. 01-235; MM Dkt No 01-317; MM Dkt No 00-244

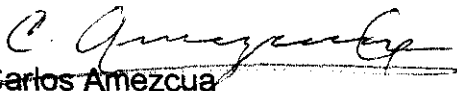
Dear Ms. Secretary:

Hispanic Telecommunications Network, Inc. submits the following informal comments in the above-referenced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, released September 23, 2002.

Hispanic Telecommunications Network, Inc. has long been concerned about the erosion of local news and public affairs programming caused by the FCC's and Congress weakening of broadcast ownership limits, and the FCC's elimination of broadcast rules which formerly had permitted the FCC and the community to monitor broadcasters to help ensure that broadcasters served their community of license with programs which meet community needs and interests. In particular, in our broadcast area, Texas, locally produced and locally directed religious programming, although wanted by the community, has all but disappeared, replaced by syndicated talk shows and infomercials.

Hispanic Telecommunications Network, Inc. urges the FCC to refrain from making changes in the current rules which (a) prohibit cross-ownership of broadcast stations and newspapers in the same community, (b) limit the number of television and radio stations a single entity may own in a single community, (c) set a national ownership cap for television station at an already overly generous 35% of households, and (d) prohibit common ownership of major television networks. Cable television already is dominated by the same companies that dominate television and satellite systems and in turn the programming on those systems. These same companies are also moving into providing Internet access. Neither cable nor the Internet (whether offered through cable or telephone companies) offer meaningful alternatives to the already scarce supply of truly local news and local public affairs programs on over-the-air television and radio.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Carlos Amezcua

Supervising Producer

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List A B C D E

CC: U.S. Representative Charles A. Gonzalez, Senator John Cronyn,  
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison



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